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April 23, 2002

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Ms. Jamara A. Franklin, Examiner  
Art Unit 2876  
US Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Ms. Franklin:

Please find enclosed:

1. A petition for Extension of Time of two months together with a check in the amount of \$200.00 made payable to the Commissioner of Patents.
2. A Declaration for Utility which I failed to submit with my check in the amount of \$90.00 made payable to the Commissioner of Patents and honored by my account on February 7, 2002.
3. And as I indicated when I spoke with you last, I have re-written the claims - Numbers 4 through 10 - for my System and Method for Collecting Vehicle Fees for Road Use. Its application number is 09/635.624, filed on August 10, 2000.

I should like to point out that the difference between the instant claims and the art, Price et al., is that the identification means in my invention is passive, while in Price the identification means is active. Specifically, the Price "tag" sends a signal to the interrogator in response to a signal from the interrogator - seen clearly in Fig.1. line 20, as the response from the "tag." In the present invention, the passive identification means which is essentially a sticker, does not send a signal to the reader. Rather, the reader simply reads the passive bar code.

As I am sure you will appreciate, the benefit of my device is that such stickers are cheap and easily replaced and readers of bar codes are fairly conventional and inexpensive.

In Price, his "tag" and his interrogator are clearly complicated devices. Specifically, his "tag" as shown in detail in Fig. 4, is an electronic device and is by no means inexpensive.

The significant difference, then, between Price and the instant invention is that the identification plastic sticker is passive unlike the active, electronic "tag" employed in Price.

Sincerely yours,

  
Paul A Firestone

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